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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/815,567	03/23/2001	Fred T. Parker	PA-5245-RFB	6497

7590

05/16/2002

Anton P. Ness
Patent Attorney
P.O. Box 2269
Bloomington, IN 47402-2269

EXAMINER

RAMANA, ANURADHA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3751

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/815,567

Applicant(s)

PARKER, FRED T.

Examiner

Anu Ramana

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4-5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The claims are directed to an “intravascular sheath” while the disclosure utilizes the term “introducer sheath.” It is suggested that the claims be amended to rectify this problem.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 10 recites the limitation "...the first outer tubing length" in lines 2-3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. The following is suggested to rectify this problem.

Claim 10 (Line 3): after “the” insert - - material of the - -. After “outer” delete “tubing length” and insert - - tube - -.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1-2, 4-5, 10-13, and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horrigan et al.(US 5,792,124) in view of Park et al.(US 6,159,187)

Regarding claim 1, Horrigan et al. disclose a catheter or sheath having a unitary lubricous liner or inner tube 40; a reinforcement means or wire braid 35 terminating proximal to the distal end of inner tube 40; a first outer tube 15; a second outer tube 20 wherein the second outer tube 20 is made of softer material than the first outer tube 15 (Figure 3; col. 2, lines 60-67; col. 3, lines 1-20 and col. 8, lines 28-34); and a distal tip 45. Further, Horrigan et al. teach the use of wire braid 35 to offer better kink resistance (col. 5, lines 1-3). Horrigan et al. do not teach the use of a wire coil as a reinforcement means. Park et al. disclose a catheter section or sheath 234 with a wire braid 236 (Figure 8) for better kink resistance (col. 2, lines 40-43; and col. 14, lines 24-26). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the wire braid 35 of Horrigan et al. with a wire coil 236 as disclosed by Park et al. where in so doing would involve mere substitution of one functional equivalent for another and the selection of any of these known equivalents would provide a catheter section with improved kink resistance as taught by Horrigan et al.

Regarding claim 2, Horrigan et al. disclose that the materials of the outer jacket of the sheath including the inner tube 40, wire braid 35, first outer tube 15 and second outer tube 20 are bonded (col. 5, lines 47-56).

Regarding claim 4, Horrigan et al. further disclose that the inner tube 40; the wire braid 35; the first outer tube 15 and the second outer tube 20 are fused or bonded by heating (col. 5, lines 47-56).

Regarding claim 5, although the Horrigan et al. device does not include a radiopaque marker band, attention is again directed to Park et al., which disclose a radiopaque marker band 120 in the distal region of a catheter or sheath 114 to allow viewing of the position of the distal most portion of the sheath 114 (col. 9, lines 27-33). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a radiopaque marker band 120 as taught by Park et al. in the second outer tube 20 of the Horrigan et al. device for viewing the position of the distal tip 45 of the Horrigan et al. device.

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Regarding claims 10-13, Horrigan et al. further disclose a second outer tube 20 made of a material having a hardness range of Shore durometer 25D to 40D and a first outer tube 40 having a hardness range of Shore durometer 50D to 60D.

Regarding claim 15, Park et al. disclose a wire coil 232 made of one or more ribbons or "flat wire" (Figure 7 and col. 14, lines 15-17).

Regarding claim 16, Park et al. disclose a sheath 110 having an arcuate distal tip region 112 (Figure 2 and col. 9, lines 21-24).

Regarding claim 17, Park et al. disclose a sheath 110 having an arcuate distal tip region 112 with a typical length of 2.5 cm to 30 cm (col. 9, line 40).

Regarding claim 18, Park et al. disclose a sheath 110 having an arcuate distal tip region 112 that is a quadrant of a circle (Figure 2 and col. 9, lines 21-24).

Regarding claim 19, Horrigan et al. disclose that the wire braid 35 should not extend more than 1/3 the length of the second outer tube 20 to provide optimum flexibility of tip 45 (col. 5, lines 1-9) or approximately 3 mm (col. 5, lines 16-20).

Regarding claim 20, Horrigan et al. disclose a sheath having a unitary lubricous liner or inner tube 40.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horrigan et al. in view of Park et al. as applied to claim 1 above, further in view of Parker (US 5,380,304).

Although Horrigan et al. do not disclose a roughened surface, attention is directed to the Parker reference, which discloses an inner tube 22 having an outer rough surface; a wire coil 23; and an outer tube 12 wherein the outer tube 12 is mechanically connected or bonded to the inner tube 22 and the wire coil by the well-known heat shrinking and formation process (col. 3, lines 67-68 and col. 4, lines 1-3). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the sheath of Horrigan et al. to have a roughened outer surface, as taught by Parker in order to improve bonding between the outer tube 12, the wire coil 23 and the inner tube 22.

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Claims 6-9 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horrigan et al. in view of Park et al. as applied to claim 1 above, further in view of Ju et al.(US 5,599,325).

Regarding claim 6, Horrigan et al. does not disclose a sheath wherein the second outer tube 20 of the sheath contains a radiopaque filler. Ju et al. disclose a sheath 10 wherein the distal end portion of the stem member 34 is a soft tip member 40 made from a polymer and radiopaque filler blend (col. 6, lines 6-14). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a second outer tube 20 in the sheath of Horrigan et al. wherein the second outer tube 20 is made from a blend of polymer and radiopaque filler as taught by Ju et al. in order to allow the viewing of the position of the sheath in the human body.

Regarding claim 7, Ju et al. further disclose a sheath 10 with an outer layer containing 0 to 42 percent by weight of radiopaque filler which is the claimed range of about 20% to 85%.

Regarding claim 8, Ju et al. disclose a sheath 10 with a second outer tube containing 0 to 42 percent by weight of radiopaque filler which is "about 80%" as claimed.

Regarding claim 9, Ju et al. further disclose a sheath 10 with a first outer tube containing 0 percent by weight of radiopaque filler which is substantially free of radiopaque filler.

Regarding claim 21, see the discussion for claims 1, 6, 10, 15, 17 and 19.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horrigan et al. in view of Park et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of MacDonald et al.(US 6,210,396).

Horrigan et al. does not disclose a sheath wherein the first outer tube 15 and the second outer tube 20 are of different colors or shades. MacDonald et al. disclose a catheter body or sheath 15 having a sleeve 120, a distal catheter shaft 35, a radiopaque band 140 and a distal soft tip 40 wherein the color of the sleeve 120 is different from the color of the distal catheter shaft 35, the color of the radiopaque band 140 and the color of the distal soft tip 40 for identification purposes (col. 10, lines 57-62). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide different colors to the first outer tube 15 and the

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second outer tube 20 in the sheath of Horrigan et al. as taught by MacDonald in order to enable a user to easily identify the first and the second tubes.

Conclusion

The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Drewes, Jr. et al. (USPN 5,300,048): Flexible, Highly Radiopaque Plastic Material Catheter

Col. 2, lines 52-56; col. 3, lines 19-23; and col. 4, lines 20-24.

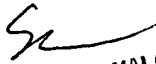
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anu Ramana whose telephone number is (703) 306-4035. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Huson can be reached on (703) 308-2580. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9302 for regular communications and (703) 872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0975.

AR

May 14, 2002


DAVID J. WALCZAK
PRIMARY EXAMINER